

Testimony of Representative David Arconti, Jr.  
Transportation Committee  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

House Bill 6818 –An Act Concerning the Establishment of Electronic Tolls at The  
State's Borders

Good Morning co-chairs Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me to address the committee today.

My name is David Arconti and I am the State Representative for Danbury's 109<sup>th</sup> District. I am here this morning to testify against House Bill 6818- An Act Concerning The Establishment of Electronic Tolls at The State's Borders.

Some of us agree that tolls are a bad idea for various reasons including traffic congestion, the potential loss of federal funding and the negative impact on our economy, just to name a few.

However, for Danbury, as one of the border towns being considered, the proposal could be devastating. Our city provides a large portion of revenue to Connecticut's coffers through the sales tax, earning us a prominent spot within the top ten municipalities contributing the most to Connecticut's economy through taxes.

Our economy thrives on Danbury's 1.3 million square foot mall and a robust downtown business district, which is patronized by neighboring towns and many out of state consumers.

An added toll would turn many of these valued consumers elsewhere. Many other bordering towns will have to deal with this same concern. Therefore, by implementing these tolls, we will be decreasing the growth of many of our high contributing municipalities.

I have heard about the potential for millions of dollars in generated revenue because of border tolls and its beneficial financial impact on our transportation infrastructure. While I am in favor of supporting revenue generators to help erase our budget deficit, I do not agree it should be done on the backs of commuters, including Connecticut drivers.

I don't believe that adding tolls is the solution to refurbishing the transportation infrastructure. We have talked about this in the past, and have concluded it's not a good idea.

Let's maintain that position. Once again, thank you for your consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Arconti, Jr.